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United States Senate

139

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

February 13, 2017

Received & Inspected

FEB 21 2017

FCC Mail Room

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

Enclosed please find some information about Mr. Lee Seydel, Chief Technology Officer of Fiberutilities Group, LLC, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He is submitting an application to serve on the Broadband Deployment Advisory Council. I ask that this nomination be given all due consideration. Any information or assistance you could provide me with respect to this issue would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and effort on this matter. If I may be of any assistance with this application, please contact my office at 202-224-3744.

Sincerely,

Chuck Grassley
Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

Committee Assignments:

CHAIRMAN,
JUDICIARY

AGRICULTURE
BUDGET
FINANCE

Co-CHAIRMAN,
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS
CONTROL CAUCUS

Nominee & Contact Information:

Mr. Lee Seydel
Chief Technology Officer
Fiberutilities Group, LLC.
222 Third Avenue SE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401
(319) 364-3200
Lseydel@fiberutilities.com

Nominee's Organization:

Fiberutilities Group, LLC

Founded in 2004, Fiberutilities Group LLC (FG) is a professional management and technology company specializing in planning, building and operating client-owned fiber networks. Since inception, FG has focused on assisting clients obtain and manage next generation, high capacity / low latency optical networks.

FG has experienced continued and sustainable growth over the past decade earning FG the Corridor Business Journal's '25 Fastest Growing Companies' award. FG has also been awarded Technology Company of the Year by the Technology Association of Iowa.

FG is technology, vendor and carrier neutral. The FG executive team has an average of 25+ years of operating, computer, wireless, networking and telecommunications experience. Operating a full-featured 24 x 7 x 365 redundant Network Operations Center (NOC) allows FG to manage over 15,000 network miles for a variety of clients across the Midwest. FG has facilitated over \$52 million in private network projects and over \$80 million in federally funded projects.

In addition to a variety of private sector networks, FG was awarded management responsibilities for the Iowa Communications Network (ICN), the State of Iowa's fiber network that connects all 99 counties with reliable, high speed optical transport. Similarly, the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) for the State of Iowa has retained FG to assist in the development and deployment of a number of state broadband initiatives.

Nominee's Qualifications:

Mr. Seydel's extensive industry experience spans 30 years of network and technology management, with a track record of success through innovative collaboration.

With a strong foundation in both software and network development, Mr. Seydel has made significant contributions as part of industry leading teams including Texas Instruments, Xerox, DSC, MCI and McLeodUSA. As Chief Technology Officer of Fiberutilities Group, LLC, Mr. Seydel has actively planned and managed nearly \$50 million dollars of grant

development programs associated with the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP) and the Rural Health Care Pilot Program (RHCPP).

In senior leadership positions, Mr. Seydel has served as Director of Intelligent Distributed Network Architecture for MCI, as Vice President of Network Services for McLeodUSA and as Chief Technology Officer for Fiberutilities Group, LLC. Mr. Seydel has been responsible for the construction, installation and operation of thousands of miles of next-generation infrastructure across the central United States. Mr. Seydel brings both a depth and breadth of experience to the ever-changing landscape of technology innovation and broadband deployment.

In addition to his strong technology and leadership skills, Mr. Seydel brings a keen understanding of the importance of broadband in rural America. I believe that the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee would be greatly enhanced by Mr. Seydel's broad industry experience and knowledge, as well as his uniquely qualified perspective regarding the role of technology in rural communities.

Mr. Seydel is a 1981 graduate of the University of Iowa, Iowa City, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Computer Science. He is co-inventor in 5 technology / telecommunications patents.

Lobbyist Status:

Mr. Seydel is not a registered federal lobbyist.



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

February 27, 2017

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

Thank you for your letter supporting the appointment of Mr. Lee Seydel, Chief Technology Officer of Fiberutilities Group, LLC to serve on the Commission's Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (BDAC). We will certainly consider your recommendation and Mr. Seydel's impressive resume as the Commission reviews the nominations for the BDAC.

Last September, I proposed what I called a Digital Empowerment Agenda—a blueprint of policies that would accelerate the deployment of high-speed Internet access, or broadband, in communities across the country, including rural America. The BDAC is intended to provide an effective means for stakeholders to exchange ideas and develop recommendations to the Commission on broadband deployment. Its mission will be to identify regulatory barriers to infrastructure investment and to make recommendations on reducing and/or removing them, which will in turn enhance the Commission's ability to carry out its statutory responsibility to encourage broadband deployment to all Americans.

I appreciate your taking the time to communicate your recommendations to me. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai

P.S. Mr. Chairman, I've enjoyed working with you and your staff (especially Rita) over the years! Thanks for weighing in on this - having recently seen for myself the promise and challenges of broadband in Iowa, I'm committed to working with you to make a positive difference.